

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

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R 021131Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6961

S E C R E T CAIRO 3781

EXDIS

FOR LOS STEVENSON AND MOORE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, EG

SUBJECT: LOS: STRAITS

1. DURING MOORE'S RECENT VISIT TO CAIRO, HE AND MFA LEGAL ADVISOR ABDUL HAMID DISCUSSED OUR RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES' POSITIONS ON VARIOUS LOS MATTERS. I HAVE ALSO GIVEN ABDUL HAMID POSITION PAPER ON TERRITORIAL SEA AND STRAITS TRANSMITTED IN DEPT A-1166. ABDUL HAMID HAS NOTED THAT THAT POSITION PAPER IS THE SAME AS USG ESPOUSED LAST YEAR AND IS ONE WITH WHICH GOE IS NOT IN AGREEMENT.

2. AS I UNDERSTAND IT, ABDUL HAMID TOLD MOORE THAT HE WOULD LIKE A PAPER UPDATING THE USG POSITION ON THIS SUBJECT. SPECIFICALLY, HE WOULD LIKE TO SEPARATE THE TWO IDEAS OF (A) STRAITS CONNECTING TWO PARTS OF THE HIGH SEAS AND (B) STRAITS CONNECTING ONE PART OF THE HIGH SEAS AND TERRITORIAL WATERS, ALONG THE LINES PROPOSED BY THE SOVIET UNION LAST YEAR.

3. HE WANTS SUCH A PAPER TO PRESENT TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER IN ORDER TO GET NEW INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE UPCOMING CARACAS CONFERENCE. HE WANTS THE PAPER PRESENTED, MOREOVER, THROUGH THE EMBASSY SINCE

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THE SUBJECT HAS IMPORTANT POLITICAL OVERTONES SO FAR

AS EGYPT IS CONCERNED. THE STRAITS OF TIRAN, HE EMPHASIZED, IS ONE ASPECT OF THE ARAB-ISRAELI PROBLEM; HENCE THE GOE CANNOT VIEW THE SUBJECT AS PURELY A LOS MATTER.

4. ABDUL HAMID IS SEEKING TO GET INSTRUCTIONS WHICH WILL AT LEAST ENABLE HIM TO MODERATE PREVIOUS GOE OPPOSITION TO THE US POSITION ON THE STRAITS. BUT, HE POINTS OUT, MUCH WILL DEPEND ON THE LANGUAGE OF THE DRAFT. HE IS LEAVING FOR CARACAS ON JUNE 15, STOPPING FOR A FEW DAYS IN NEW YORK FOR A PHYSICAL CHECKUP. HE WOULD APPRECIATE HAVING THE PAPER SOONEST.

5. FOR MOORE: THE MISUNDERSTANDING ABOUT WHETHER OR NOT A PAPER WAS WANTED IS MINE. SINCE I WAS NOT PRESENT DURING YOUR TALK WITH ABDUL HAMID, I MISINTERPRETED HIS LATER COMMENTS TO ME ABOUT YOUR TALK THAT YOU HAD PROPOSED A PAPER AND HE WOULD RATHER NOT HAVE ONE. IN FACT, AS INDICATED ABOVE, HE DOES WANT A PAPER. I HOPE WE CAN PROVIDE HIM WITH IT QUICKLY, SINCE I BELIEVE HE WILL TRY TO BE AS HELPFUL AS CIRCUMSTANCES PERMIT. SUGGEST IT BE SENT TELEGRAPHICALLY.
EILTS

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NNN

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